Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 105429 POSS DUPE ORIGIN L-03

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GENEVA FOR USDEL INTERNAT'L HUMANITARIAN LAW

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, PFOR

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

DEPT RECEIVED FOLLOWING NOTE FROM MEXICAN EMBASSY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING PROPOSED RESPONSE FROM USDEL.

BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY OF MEXICO PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE DATED APRIL 11, 1977 PERSONALLY DELIVERED BY AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL TO MR. GEORGE H. ALDRICH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 105429 POSS DUPE

DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, REGARDING THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW NOW BEING HELD AT GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

IN THIS REGARD, THE FINAL TEXT OF ARTICLE 86 BIS OF PROTOCOL I OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949, PROPOSED BY MEXICO AND TO DATE COSPONSORED BY IRAN, ECUADOR, SPAIN,

HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, GUATEMALA, PHILIPPINES, BOLIVIA, NIGERIA, AND PANAMA, WOULD READ IN ENGLISH AS FOLLOWS:

PROTOCOL I ARTICLE 86 BIS

- 1. A COMMITTEE OF STATES PARTIES TO THIS PROTOCOL SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ANY PROPOSAL THAT ONE OR MORE STATES PARTIES MAY SUBMIT CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS THAT MAY CAUSE SUPERFLUOUS INJURIES OR HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS.
- 2. THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF (21) STATES PARTIES, ELECTED FOR THREE YEARS ON THE BASIS OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION BY THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS PROTOCOL, BY MEANS OF NOTICES ADDRESSED TO THE DEPOSITORY GOVERNMENT. THE DEPOSITORY GOVERNMENT, IF IT SHOULD CONSIDER IT NECESSARY, MAY CONVENE A MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO ELECT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET WHENEVER ONE THIRD OF ITS MEMBERS SO REQUEST. IT SHALL ADOPT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS BY MAJORITY AND SHALL ELECT ITS CHAIRMAN.
- 3. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE, AND SHALL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SECRETARIAL FACILITIES.

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PAGE 03 STATE 105429 POSS DUPE

4. ON THE BASIS OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS A SPECIAL CONFERENCE MAY BE CONVENED WITH A VIEW TO ADOPT AGREEMENTS THAT IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT DO NOT HAVE AN UNLIMITED RIGHT OF CHOICE OF MEANS OF COMBAT.

IN ADDITION, THE ARTICLE PROPOSED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES OF VARIOUS REGIONS: ROMANIA, MALI, IVORY COAST, MAURITANIA, EGYPT, TANZANIA, VENEZUELA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SUDAN, YUGOSLAVIA, AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, AUSTRIA, KUWAIT, LESOTHO, LEBANON, NORWAY, TUNISIA, AND ZAIRE.

THE EMBASSY OF MEXIEO, IN AGAIN REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE TEXT PROPOSED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND FURTHER REQUESTING IT TO INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATION AT GENEVA IN THIS SENSE, AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO IT THE ASSURANCES OF ITS MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION.

WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 29, 1977. END TEXT. FYI: ALTHOUGH NOT FORMALLY STAFFED, THERE IS NO SUPPORT AND CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO MEXICAN PROPOSAL IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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Subject: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANI- TARIAN LAW DEPT RECEIVED FOLLOWING NOTE FROM MEXICAN

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MX, US, ICRC

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